

ENTERED

November 25, 2024

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

IN RE APACHE CORP. SECURITIES
LITIGATION

Case No. 4:21-cv-00575

District Judge George C. Hanks, Jr.

Magistrate Judge Andrew M. Edison

CLASS ACTION

FINAL JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF DISMISSAL

WHEREAS, a securities class action is pending in this Court entitled *In re Apache Corp. Securities Litigation*, Case No. 4:21-cv-00575 (the “Action”);

WHEREAS, by Order dated October 6, 2021, this Court appointed Plymouth County Retirement Association and the Trustees of the Teamsters Union No. 142 Pension Fund as Lead Plaintiffs and Kessler Topaz Meltzer & Check, LLP (“Kessler Topaz”) and Saxena White P.A. (“Saxena White”) as Lead Counsel (Dkt. 45);

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2021, Lead Plaintiffs filed their Consolidated Class Action Complaint for Violations of the Federal Securities Laws (Dkt. 65);

WHEREAS, Lead Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the Settlement Class (defined below), and Apache Corp. and its successor APA Corporation, a Delaware corporation listed on NASDAQ under the symbol APA (“Apache”), John J. Christmann IV, Timothy J. Sullivan, and Stephen J. Riney (together, “Defendants,” and together with Lead Plaintiffs, the “Parties”), have determined to settle and dismiss with prejudice all claims asserted in the Action on the terms and conditions set forth in the

Stipulation and Agreement of Settlement dated May 7, 2024 (“Stipulation”), subject to approval of this Court (the “Settlement”);

WHEREAS, unless otherwise defined in this Judgment, the capitalized terms herein shall have the same meanings as they have in the Stipulation;

WHEREAS, by Order dated May 10, 2024 (“Preliminary Approval Order”), this Court: (a) found, pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, that it would likely be able to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and adequate under Rule 23(e)(2); (b) ordered that notice of the Action and proposed Settlement be provided to potential Settlement Class Members; (c) provided Settlement Class Members with the opportunity either to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class or to object to the Settlement; and (d) scheduled a hearing regarding final approval of the Settlement;

WHEREAS, due and adequate notice has been given to the Settlement Class;

WHEREAS, the Court conducted a hearing on September 19, 2024 (the “Settlement Hearing”) to consider, among other things, (a) whether the terms and conditions of the Settlement are fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Class, and should therefore be approved; and (b) whether a judgment should be entered dismissing the Action with prejudice as against the Defendants, and authorizing the Releases specified and described in the Stipulation (and in the Notice); and

WHEREAS, the Court having reviewed and considered the Stipulation, all papers filed, and proceedings held herein in connection with the Settlement, all oral and written comments received regarding the Settlement, and the record in the Action, and good cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

1. **Jurisdiction** – The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of the Action, and all matters relating to the Settlement, as well as personal jurisdiction over all of the Parties and each of the Settlement Class Members.

2. **Incorporation of Settlement Documents** – This Judgment incorporates and makes a part hereof: (a) the Stipulation filed with the Court on May 8, 2024 (Dkt. 162-2); and (b) the Postcard Notice, Notice, and Summary Notice, all of which were filed with the Court on August 15, 2024 (Dkt. 166-3).

3. **Class Certification for Settlement Purposes** – The Court hereby certifies for purposes of the Settlement only, the Action as a class action pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of the Settlement Class consisting of all persons or entities who purchased or otherwise acquired Apache common stock from September 7, 2016, through March 13, 2020, inclusive (“Class Period”), and were damaged thereby (“Settlement Class”). Excluded from the Settlement Class are Defendants, the officers and directors of Apache, members of their immediate families and their legal representatives, heirs, agents, affiliates, successors or assigns, Defendants’ liability insurance carriers, and any affiliates or subsidiaries thereof, and any entity in which Defendants or their immediate families have or had a controlling interest. Also excluded from the Settlement Class are the persons and entities listed on Exhibit 1 hereto who or which are excluded from the Settlement Class pursuant to request.

4. **Settlement Class Findings** – For purposes of the Settlement only, the Court finds that each element required for certification of the Settlement Class pursuant to

Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure has been met: (a) the members of the Settlement Class are so numerous that their joinder in the Action would be impracticable; (b) there are questions of law and fact common to the Settlement Class which predominate over any individual questions; (c) the claims of Lead Plaintiffs in the Action are typical of the claims of the Settlement Class; (d) Lead Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel have and will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Settlement Class; and (e) a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the Action.

5. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and for purposes of the Settlement only, the Court hereby appoints Lead Plaintiffs as Class Representatives for the Settlement Class and appoints Lead Counsel Kessler Topaz and Saxena White as Class Counsel for the Settlement Class. The Court finds that Lead Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel have fairly and adequately represented the Settlement Class both in terms of litigating the Action and for purposes of entering into and implementing the Settlement and have satisfied the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a)(4) and 23(g), respectively.

6. **Settlement Notice** – The Court finds that the dissemination and posting of the Postcard Notice and Notice and the publication of the Summary Notice: (a) were implemented in accordance with the Preliminary Approval Order; (b) constituted the best notice practicable under the circumstances; (c) constituted notice that was reasonably calculated, under the circumstances, to apprise Settlement Class Members of (i) the pendency of the Action; (ii) the effect of the proposed Settlement (including the Releases

to be provided thereunder); (iii) Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses; (iv) their right to object to any aspect of the Settlement, the Plan of Allocation, and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses; (v) their right to exclude themselves from the Settlement Class; and (vi) their right to appear at the Settlement Hearing; (d) constituted due, adequate, and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled to receive notice of the proposed Settlement; and (e) satisfied the requirements of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the United States Constitution (including the Due Process Clause), the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, 15 U.S.C. § 78u-4, as amended, and all other applicable law and rules.

7. **CAFA Notice** – The Court finds that the notice requirements set forth in the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1715, to the extent applicable to the Action, have been satisfied. Defendants timely mailed notice of the Settlement pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b), including notices to the Attorney General of the United States of America, and the Attorneys General of all States in which Settlement Class Members reside. The notice contained the documents and information required by 28 U.S.C. § 1715(b)(1)-(8).

8. **Objections** – There are no objections to the Settlement.

9. **Final Settlement Approval and Dismissal of Claims** – Pursuant to, and in accordance with, Rule 23(e)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, this Court hereby fully and finally approves the Settlement set forth in the Stipulation in all respects (including, without limitation: the Settlement Amount; the Releases provided for therein; and the dismissal with prejudice of the claims asserted against Defendants in the Action),

and finds that the Settlement is, in all respects, fair, reasonable, adequate, and in the best interests of the Settlement Class. Specifically, the Court finds that: (a) Lead Plaintiffs and Lead Counsel have adequately represented the Settlement Class; (b) the Settlement was negotiated by the Parties at arm's length; (c) the relief provided for the Settlement Class under the Settlement is adequate taking into account the costs, risks, and delay of trial and appeal, the proposed means of distributing the Settlement Fund to the Settlement Class, and the proposed attorneys' fee award; and (d) the Settlement treats members of the Settlement Class equitably relative to each other. The Parties are directed to implement, perform, and consummate the Settlement in accordance with the terms and provisions contained in the Stipulation.

10. The Action and all of the claims asserted against Defendants in the Action by Lead Plaintiffs and the other Settlement Class Members are hereby dismissed in their entirety with prejudice. The Parties shall bear their own costs and expenses, except as otherwise expressly provided in the Stipulation.

11. **Binding Effect** – The terms of the Stipulation and of this Judgment shall be forever binding on Defendants, Lead Plaintiffs, and all other Settlement Class Members (regardless of whether or not any individual Settlement Class Member submits a Claim or seeks or obtains a distribution from the Net Settlement Fund), as well as their respective successors and assigns. The persons and entities listed on Exhibit 1 hereto are excluded from the Settlement Class pursuant to request and are not bound by the terms of the Stipulation or this Judgment.

12. **Releases** – The Releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Stipulation, together with the definitions contained in paragraph 1 of the Stipulation relating thereto, are expressly incorporated herein in all respects. The Releases are effective as of the Effective Date. Accordingly, this Court orders that:

(a) Without further action by anyone, and subject to paragraph 13 below, upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, Lead Plaintiffs and each of the other Settlement Class Members, on behalf of themselves, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, representatives, attorneys, and agents, in their capacities as such, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of law and of this Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, resolved, relinquished, waived, and discharged each and every Released Plaintiffs' Claim against Defendants and the other Defendant Releasees, and shall forever be barred and enjoined from prosecuting any or all of the Released Plaintiffs' Claims directly or indirectly against any of the Defendant Releasees. This release shall not apply to any person or entity listed on Exhibit 1.

(b) Without further action by anyone, and subject to paragraph 13 below, upon the Effective Date of the Settlement, Defendants, on behalf of themselves, and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, predecessors, successors, assigns, representatives, attorneys, and agents, in their capacities as such, shall be deemed to have, and by operation of law and of this Judgment shall have, fully, finally, and forever compromised, settled, released, resolved, relinquished, waived, and discharged each and every Released Defendants' Claim against Lead Plaintiffs and the other Plaintiff Releasees,

and shall forever be barred and enjoined from prosecuting any or all of the Released Defendants' Claims directly or indirectly against any of the Plaintiff Releasees. This release shall not apply to any person or entity listed on Exhibit 1.

13. Notwithstanding paragraphs 12(a) – (b) above, nothing in this Judgment shall bar any action by any of the Parties to enforce or effectuate the terms of the Stipulation or this Judgment.

14. **Rule 11 Findings** – The Court finds and concludes that the Parties and their respective counsel have complied in all respects with the requirements of Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in connection with the institution, prosecution, defense, and settlement of the Action.

15. **No Admissions** – Neither this Judgment, the Term Sheet, the Stipulation (whether or not consummated), including the exhibits thereto and the Plan of Allocation contained therein (or any other plan of allocation that may be approved by the Court), the Parties' mediation and subsequent Settlement, the communications and/or discussions leading to the execution of the Term Sheet and the Stipulation, nor any proceedings taken pursuant to or in connection with the Term Sheet, the Stipulation, and/or approval of the Settlement (including any arguments proffered in connection therewith):

(a) shall be evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Defendant Releasees in any arbitration proceeding or other civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Stipulation;

(b) shall be evidence of, or construed as, or deemed to be evidence of any presumption, concession, or admission by any of the Plaintiff Releasees that any of their claims are without merit, that any of the Defendant Releasees had meritorious defenses, or that damages recoverable under the Complaint would not have exceeded the Settlement Amount, or with respect to any liability, negligence, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind, or in any way referred to for any other reason as against any of the Plaintiff Releasees, in any arbitration proceeding or other civil, criminal, or administrative action or proceeding, other than such proceedings as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Stipulation; or

(c) shall be construed against any of the Releasees as an admission, concession, or presumption that the consideration to be given under the Settlement represents the amount which could be or would have been recovered after trial; *provided, however,* that the Parties and the Releasees and their respective counsel may refer to this Judgment and the Stipulation to effectuate the protections from liability granted hereunder and thereunder or otherwise to enforce the terms of the Settlement.

16. **Settlement Fund** – The Court finds that Defendants have satisfied their financial obligations under the Stipulation by paying or causing to be paid \$65,000,000.00 to the Settlement Fund.

17. **Retention of Jurisdiction** – Without affecting the finality of this Judgment in any way, this Court retains continuing and exclusive jurisdiction over: (a) the Parties for purposes of the administration, interpretation, implementation, and enforcement of the Settlement; (b) the disposition of the Settlement Fund; (c) any motion for an award of

attorneys' fees and/or Litigation Expenses by Lead Counsel in the Action that will be paid from the Settlement Fund; (d) any motion to approve the Plan of Allocation; (e) any motion to approve the Class Distribution Order; and (f) the Settlement Class Members for all matters relating to the Action.

18. Separate orders shall be entered regarding approval of the Plan of Allocation and the motion of Lead Counsel for an award of attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses. Neither such orders, nor any appeal or challenge affecting the approval of the Plan of Allocation and/or Lead Counsel's motion for attorneys' fees and Litigation Expenses, shall in any way affect or delay the finality of this Judgment and shall not affect or delay the Effective Date of the Settlement.

19. **Modification of the Agreement of Settlement** – Without further approval from the Court, Lead Plaintiffs and Defendants are hereby authorized to agree to and adopt such amendments or modifications of the Stipulation or any exhibits attached thereto to effectuate the Settlement that: (a) are not materially inconsistent with this Judgment; and (b) do not materially limit the rights of Settlement Class Members in connection with the Settlement. Without further order of the Court, Lead Plaintiffs and Defendants may agree to reasonable extensions of time to carry out any provisions of the Settlement.

20. **Termination of Settlement** – If the Settlement is terminated as provided in the Stipulation or the Effective Date of the Settlement otherwise fails to occur, this Judgment shall be vacated and rendered null and void, and shall be of no further force and effect, except as otherwise provided by the Stipulation, and this Judgment shall be without prejudice to the rights of Lead Plaintiffs, the other Settlement Class Members, and

Defendants, and the Parties shall revert to their respective positions in the Action as of immediately prior to the execution of the Term Sheet on March 15, 2024, as provided in the Stipulation.

21. **Entry of Final Judgment** – There is no just reason to delay the entry of this Judgment as a final judgment in this Action. Accordingly, the Clerk of the Court is expressly directed to immediately enter this final judgment in this Action.

SO ORDERED this 25th day of November, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Edison', is written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Andrew M. Edison
United States Magistrate Judge

Exhibit 1

List of Persons and Entities Excluded from the Settlement Class Pursuant to Request

1. Glenn Mackowski
Brentwood, TN
2. Francis Caruso
3. Janyth O. Robertson
Batesville, MS
4. Mark Ryding Søndersted
Copenhagen, Denmark
5. Elizabeth G. Scoda
Hardeeville, SC
6. Estate of Beryl Kelly
c/o Steven Kelly
Ottawa ON, Canada
7. Tom Taylor
Dodge City, KS
8. Ganapathy R. Sankaran
McMinnville, TN
9. Klick USA, Inc.
New York, NY